

May 16, 2014

I would like to begin this edition by asking providers to please share Open Line with their Direct Support Professionals (DSPs). We will periodically highlight information relevant to DSPs, especially where training updates or care of persons supported is concerned. Attached, is an oral hygiene tip sheet for DSPs and other caregivers. Special thanks to the Edenfield Dental Group in Knoxville and Chattanooga for allowing us to distribute!

- Spotlighting Persons Supported:** Maurice Turner currently receives supports through the Self-Determination Waiver. He has been very determined to accomplish his goals and has experienced ongoing success at Long John Silver's working two days per week as a dining room attendant. He is also an active member in his church and serves on the Ministry Team when given the opportunity. His most recent accomplishment occurred on May 12 when Maurice graduated from the Sheriff's Citizen Academy Class #43 in Rutherford County. He participated in the program with his mother beginning January 21, 2014 and never missed a class.



While in the program, Maurice toured the Rutherford County jail, visited the local range to learn about gun safety and participated in various role play activities. Maurice also participated in a K-9 class where he met and interacted with Eli, one of the Sheriff's K-9 dogs. His favorite part of class was the 12 hour shift ride-along with Deputy Rick Emislee on April 25. Maurice has made many friends in the sheriff's department and is now making plans to participate in their alumni class this fall. His mother is very proud and expressed Maurice has opened her eyes and heart to more acceptance and letting go of fears. She stated Maurice meets his challenges daily, not with the attitude of defeat, but with the decision to be a believer instead of a skeptic in spite of his intellectual disability.

- DIDD Training Update:** Our training page on the DIDD website is currently undergoing updates. Last week, a document was placed online listing all [sub-portal URLs](#) for agencies that are not part of the TNDIDD hierarchy of agencies. This information will be useful to learners when creating a master account and sharing their training between agencies. If an agency is not on this list, then the main URL of <http://tndidd.training.reliaslearning.com> will work as the login for each agency. Please remember an unique user ID will always have to be created for each new staff person. There is a how-to video for learners on the DIDD website that demonstrates the creation and linking of master accounts. Training administrators should refer learners to this video and not create master accounts for their learners. Administrators are also encouraged to reference the Relias Administrators Packet on the [DIDD training page](#) for further information on creating learner IDs for all new staff.

- **Employment Success Story:** Roger De La Rosa is currently on the DIDD waiting list and has always had a strong desire to maintain employment in the community. A couple of months ago, Roger's brothers assisted him with completing and submitting an application for employment at Publix. After submitting the application, Roger was contacted for an interview. Roger impressed Publix's manager with his skills and desire to be part of the Publix team. The interview was a success and Publix felt Roger would be a significant asset to the company. Roger started working April 26 and his job title is Bagger. On average, he works four hours a day, three to four days per week and earns \$9.15 an hour.



Roger indicated his sense of pride about earning an income and being able to financially contribute to his family. He enjoys interacting with people and is excited to have a meaningful day. At the moment, Roger does not have a job coach; however he has developed natural supports at home and work. His family has even observed Roger smiling more and talking about work with excitement. Case Manager Adrian O'Bryant also remains in contact with him to ensure success on the job.

Congratulations to Roger on all your accomplishments with Publix and thank you Adrian for your commitment in supporting Roger with his employment endeavors!

- **Employment First Community of Practice Webinar:** Office of Disability Employment Policy (ODEP) Subject Matter Expert Doug Crandell will conduct a presentation titled, *Promoting Evidence-Based Practice in Supported Employment (SE), Leveraging Social Capital and Expanding the Use of Customized Employment (CE) Strategies* on June 2 from 1:00 p.m.-2:30 p.m. CST. This session will provide participants with some tools to assist with job placements through the use of CE and to specifically leverage social capital through SE. Participation is limited to 25 individuals and on a first-come, first-serve basis. If interested, please RSVP to Betty Chester at Betty.Chester@tn.gov by May 28. Please note the webinar will be conducted via Adobe Connect and participants will need to call 615-741-1193 or toll free at 1-877-214-0097.

To join the meeting, participants should enter this link in their web browser: <http://stateoftennessee.adobeconnect.com/empdaysvcs/>. Select the option to enter as guest, type in your first and last name and click on the option to enter the meeting room. If you have never connected to an Adobe Connect meeting before on your computer, please test your connection prior to the meeting [here](#). You may be prompted to install an Adobe Connect Add-In, which may take a few minutes to download and install. You may also need to temporarily disable your pop-up blocker. Please contact DIDDHelpdesk@tn.gov if you need any assistance.

- **Statewide Planning and Policy Council (SPPC):** The SPPC will conduct its next quarterly meeting on May 21, 2014 from 10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. at the West Precinct Police Station (5500 Charlotte Avenue, Nashville). This meeting is open to the public. For additional information or if you require ADA assistance, please contact Kellie Miller at 615-741-0837 or Kellie.Miller@tn.gov.
- **Tennessee Disability MegaConference:** A reminder the 12th annual MegaConference will be held May 29-30, 2014 in Nashville; this year's theme is *Change!* The event will feature world-class keynote speakers, interactive workshops and educational sessions among other events. For more information or to register, please click [here](#).

- **Greene Valley Pen Pals:** This year's pen pal program between Chuckey Elementary School and Greene Valley ended with a bang! The students enjoyed corresponding with their pen pals from Greene Valley so much and wanted to show their appreciation with a formal acknowledgement.

According to the Chuckey pen pal staff coordinator, the students planned what they wanted to do for their pen pals and were very excited to meet them. Gifts and certificates were exchanged, lots of smiles were apparent and two students came to the microphone telling what they liked about being a pen pal.



At the final comment call, pen pal Bobby Robinson (pictured at right) exuberantly called out, "Yeah!" It was obvious he was happy to be there. Although Greene Valley and Chuckey have supported the pen pal program for several years, this is the first time that an end of school year get-together has occurred. It was so well received that we hope it will not be the last time.

- **Job Fair:** Clarksville-Montgomery County is hosting a job fair on May 29, 2014 from 10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. at the Wilma Rudolph Event Center (1190 Cumberland Drive). More than 70 multi-county employers will be hiring for multiple positions. For more information, contact Jaylene Younge at (615) 741-5198 or the Tennessee Career Center in Clarksville at (931) 648-5530.

Be safe and have a great weekend!

~Debbie